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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,126	02/11/2004	Robert J. Flowers	A4-033 US	3557

23683 7590 11/18/2004

MOLEX INCORPORATED
2222 WELLINGTON COURT
LISLE, IL 60532

EXAMINER

TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,126

Applicant(s)

FLOWERS ET AL.

Examiner

Larisa Z Tsukerman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/11/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (5645453).

Yamaguchi disclose an electrical connector 100, comprising:

a housing 30 having a front mating end, a rear terminating end and at least one terminal-receiving passage 34 extending in an insertion direction between the ends, the passage 34 having a rear open end communicating with the rear terminating end of the housing 30, and the front mating end of the housing having an open receptacle area 31 (see Fig.5);

a TPA device 20 engageable with the housing 30 at the front mating end thereof in a pre-load position whereat a substantial portion of the TPA device projects outside the housing beyond the front mating end thereof (see Figs. 1, 3 and 5), the TPA device 20 having a through passage 21 coincident with the terminal-receiving passage 34 in the housing and including a primary locking arm 23 which is flexible outside the housing generally transversely of the insertion direction and having a primary lock portion 24 exposed in the through passage 21; and

a terminal 41 insertable through the rear terminating end of the housing 30 into the rear open end of the terminal-receiving passage 34 and into the through passage 21 in the TPA device 20, the terminal 41 having a primary lock portion 42 engageable by the primary lock portion 24 of the primary locking arm 23 of the TPA device 20, the TPA device 20 and the terminal 41 being movable conjointly rearwardly from the pre-load position (see Figs. 5, 1 and 3) to a locking position of the TPA device 20 (see Fig.4) in the open receptacle area at the front mating end of the housing which defines an inserted mating position of the terminal.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 - 12 are allowed.

Claims 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior Art does not teach or suggest a connector with:

In regard to claim 1, interengaging ramp means between the TPA device and the housing and extending at an angle to an insertion axis for moving the locking shoulder of the terminal transversely of the insertion axis onto the locking surface on the housing as the TPA device and the terminal move conjointly from said pre-load position to the locking position angularly of the insertion axis.

In regard to claim 11, 14 and 15 the locking shoulder of the terminal ... performs a **dual function** of being part of both the **primary terminal locking means** (arm of TPA and shoulder of the terminal) and the secondary terminal locking means (secondary locking surface of the housing and the shoulder of the terminal), such as terminal shoulder simultaneously engaging both the arm of TPA and a surface of the housing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT, 11/07/04


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER